

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
requesting first device-related information from a network device over a network,
wherein the first device-related information includes meter-reading information;
receiving the first device-related information including meter-reading information
from the network device over the network;
obtaining multifunction peripheral information, wherein the obtaining
multifunction peripheral information includes reading a meter of the
multifunction peripheral;
generating a device-related report based at least in part on (a) said first device-
related information including meter-reading information received from the
network device over the network, combined with (b)~~and based at least in~~
~~part on~~ the multifunction peripheral information obtained from the
multifunction peripheral; and
sending said device-related report to a recipient device, wherein the recipient
device is separate from both the network device and the multifunction
peripheral,
wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a hypertext transfer
protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to
perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient
device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via
hypertext transfer protocol using the hypertext transfer protocol module.

2. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based at least in part on the recipient device.
3. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a faxing module and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report via fax using the faxing module.
4. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a network connection and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report to an electronic faxing service over the network connection.
5. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an email module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via email using the email module.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via secure hypertext transfer protocol using the secure hypertext transfer protocol module.

8. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a file transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via file transfer protocol using the file transfer protocol module.
9. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an encryption module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of encrypting the device-related report.
10. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises an identification module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the steps of retrieving an identifier for the multifunction peripheral and augmenting the device-related report with the identifier for the multifunction peripheral.
11. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of requesting first device-related information from the network device at regular intervals.
12. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of requesting first device-related information using simple network management protocol.
13. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 12, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of receiving first device-related information from the network device using the simple network management protocol.

14. (Currently Amended) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the first device-related information comprises meter-reading information and one or more of device information, device status, and consumables information.
15. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of first device-related information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.
16. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input via a remote interface, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of the first device-related information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.
17. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of requesting the first device-related information from the network device at intervals defined by the user configuration input.
18. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based in part on the user configuration input, and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device at an interval defined by the user configuration input.
19. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further comprises a means for executing instructions of a java application and the steps are performed by instructions of a particular java application.

20. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the network device is a second multifunction peripheral.
21. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the recipient device is one of the group consisting of a fax machine, a computer, and dedicated hardware executing one of the group consisting of an email client, an http server, and https server, and an ftp server.
22. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of:
requesting second device-related information from a second network device over a network, wherein the network device is distinct from the second network device;
receiving the second device-related information from the second network device over the network;
generating the device-related report based on said first device-related information and said second device-related information; and
sending said device-related report to the recipient device.
23. (Previously Presented) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step of:
accessing second multifunction peripheral information from the multifunction peripheral;
generating the device-related report based on said first device-related information and said second multifunction peripheral information; and
sending said device-related report to the recipient device.
24. (Original) The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to receive an acknowledgement over the network from the network device.

25. – 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
- requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;
 - receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;
 - reading a meter of the multifunction peripheral;
 - generating a device-related report based on (a) the received device-related information received from the network device over the network, combined with (b)-and device-related information obtained from reading the meter offrom the multifunction peripheral; and
 - sending said device-related report to a recipient device,
- wherein the device-related information includes meter reading information,
- wherein the device-related report includes an identification of the multifunction peripheral, and
- wherein the recipient device is separate from both the network device and the multifunction peripheral,
- wherein the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device is performed by a hypertext transfer protocol module in the multifunction peripheral, wherein the hypertext transfer protocol uses a hypertext transfer protocol.